

The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 10,162.—VOL. LXII.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1870.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

BIRTHS.

On the 16th instant, at her residence, Cowabahbee, the wife of Mr. J. FENNELL, a son, now residing, Jerry's Plains, the wife of Mrs. SAWYER, a daughter.

On the 17th instant, at her residence, 53, Hunter-street, corner of Pitt-street, the wife of Mr. GUNN, surgeon-dentist, of a son.

On the 12th instant, at Hareclere, Edgewell Road, the wife of F. GUNN, a son.

On the 18th instant, at her residence, Gloucester-terrace, Macquarie-street South, Mrs. GUNN, a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 16th instant, at St. George's Bridge, by R. C. B. of the District Registrar, Hiram John KIRK, a child of Mr. and Mrs. KIRK, a son, to the youngest daughter of the late Mr. DAVID ROBERTS, of Balme, Riverine, Queensland.

On the 17th instant, by the Right Rev. Dr. BISHOP, Bishop of the Church of England, George MULALLY, son, son of George MULALLY, Superintendent of the Light-house at Broken Bay, to LUCILLE, third daughter of Mr. JOHN FLACK, Farmer, of Sydney.

On the 17th instant, at the Cross, Eastwood, the Rev. A. G. COOPER, a son, to Mrs. LUCILLE, late of Lismore, Fencis, to ELIZABETH, daughter of WILLIAM JOHNSON, of Sydney.

On the 18th instant, for special license, by the Rev. Henry H. GILL, Thomas, eldest son of Mr. ISAAC HODGKIN, shipwright, Lime-street, LYDIA, MARY, youngest daughter of the late WILLIAM HODGKIN, contractor, of the 18th instant, at Pitt-street Wharf.

DEATHS.

On the 16th instant, at her residence, Nabb-street, Windsor, JAMES THOMAS TEMPERLEY, aged 61 years, oldest son of the late James Temperley, bootmaker, Cumberland-street, Sydney.

On the 17th instant, at his residence, 10, Pitt-street, Pitt-street, Mrs. MARY, a daughter of the late Mr. DAVID ROBERTS, of Balme, Riverine, Queensland.

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CHRISTMAS EXCURSIONS.

RETURN TICKETS AT SINGLE FARES for both Cabin and Steerage, with tickets for all the Steamers of the Company, available from To-morrow, the 20th instant, to Monday, the 5th January, 1871.

Sydney, 12th December, 1870.

PARRAMATTA AND RIVER STRAMERS.

FIFTEEN MILES FOR ONE SHILLING.

From King-street, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65.

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REVIEW

FLORA AUSTRALIENSIS: A description of the plants of the Australian Territory. By GEORGE BENTHAM, F.R.S., P.L.S., assisted by FERDINAND MUELLER, M.D., C.M.G., F.R.S., and L.S., Government Botanist, Melbourne, Victoria. Vol. 5. *Myoporinae Proteaceae.* Published under the authority of the several Governments of the Australian Colonies. London: L. Reeve and Co., 5, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, 1870, pp. 469.

The great work now in progress for the description and elucidation of the Australian Flora is again brought under our notice by the appearance of the 5th volume, which affords another evidence of the untiring zeal and scientific ability of the eminent botanists who are engaged in developing our vegetable resources. It is, indeed, an undertaking of a most extensive character, and one which is calculated to render essential service to these colonies, in making known throughout the civilized world not merely the peculiarities of Australian plants, but also in marking the features and habitat of many species which may prove useful to medicinal or industrial pursuits. In this work we have, as it were, a concentration of all the information which has hitherto been obtained respecting the vegetation of this continent; and although, probably, many plants remain to be discovered in the desert wilds and dense scrubs, which have not yet been penetrated by civilized man, it may truly be said that the *Flora Australiensis* rests on an imperishable basis, and that it will secure for the names of Bentham and Mueller a lasting reputation in the world of science.

In the volume before us, the following orders are minutely described:—(1) *Myoporine*, (2) *Selaginaceae*, (3) *Fernaceae*, (4) *Labiatae*, (5) *Plantaginaceae*, (6) *Phytolaccaceae*, (7) *Chenopodiaceae*, (8) *Anaraceae*, (9) *Turmalinaceae*, (10) *Polygonaceae*, (11) *Ngaginaceae*, (12) *Myristicaceae*, (13) *Monimiaceae*, (14) *Lauraceae*, and (15) *Protaceae*. The fifty-five genera of these last orders are referred to the Monopteris of Dicotyledons, as continued from the preceding volume, and they are generally characterised by their superior ovary, and apparently four celled division of that organ. *Myoporine* are for the most part Australian, two of the genera entirely so, whilst the others are sparingly scattered over the Indian Archipelago, the Isles of the Pacific, tropical Africa, and America. The genus *Myoporum*, according to Mr. Bentham, contains 13 species, *M. Cunninghamii* being reduced to *M. acuminatum*, and 8 varieties being placed under *M. serratum*. Some species of this genus occur near Sydney, but *Pholidia*, with the exception of two species, is confined to S. and W. Australis, although probably others may yet be discovered in the vicinity of the Darling, or, at all events, some of the plants, which are now supposed to belong exclusively to the southern and western regions of the continent, may be found to extend to the remote parts of this colony. *Eremophila* differs from the preceding genus principally in habit, and there is no positive combination of characters to separate them; but Mr. Bentham regards them as distinct genera, and hints at the probability of a future division of the species, whereby the five sections, in which he has classed the genus, may be admitted as genera. It appears that thirty-two species of *Eremophila* are now known to be indigenous in Australia, some of which are well worthy of cultivation, and contain many features of interest to the botanist. The species for the most part inhabit the deserts of the interior, and hence the name of the genus is peculiarly appropriate. *Selaginace* are represented in Australia by a solitary species of the genus *Dischisma* (*D. capitatum*), which, although now abundant in Western Australis, may have come originally from the Cape of Good Hope. Of the *Fernaceae*, Mr. Bentham remarks, there are large American ones, of which a very few species, including those found in Australia, have become more or less generally diffused over the Old World; five are most numerously represented in tropical Asia and Africa, but three of them are also American, and one of these extends in a single species beyond the tropics as far as Southern Europe; one, consisting chiefly of maritime plants, is as common in the New as in the Old World, and the

World, and the remaining eleven genera are purely endemic, with the exception of *Faradaya*, which is represented by a second species in the South Pacific Islands. *Lantana camara* is certainly an introduced shrub, and *Lippia*, which is a considerable genus in America, has only two species in the northern and western parts of Australia. *Verbenia*, which, in other parts of the world, has so many beautiful and interesting species, is represented in Australia only by *V. officinalis* and *V. Bonariensis*, the latter of which is decidedly an exotic, and the former, although described amongst Brown's earliest discoveries, is supposed by some botanists to have been introduced. *Leptostachys* is a genus endemic in Western Australia, the four species of which were first collected by Mr. Drummond, a gentleman to whom the scientific world is much indebted for his valuable papers on Australian plants and extensive collections of specimens in Western Australia. *Newcastlia* is a genus established by Dr. F. Von Mueller, which contains two species of densely woolly or cottony shrubs, as yet known to be indigenous only in Northern Australia. *Physopsis*, *Malophora*, and *Dicrastylis* are small genera of Western and Northern Australia. *Chloanthes*, of which, perhaps, too many species have been made, is represented by one species common in swampy places near Sydney, and on the Blue Mountains, and another peculiar to Western Australia. *Pityrodia*, *Cyanostegia*, *Denisonia*, *Spartothamnus*, *Callicarpa*, and *Premna*, are principally small shrubs; but amongst the species of *Clerodendron*, *Gmelina*, and *Vitis*, there are some trees of considerable size, which afford useful timber for building purposes, and appear to have been favourably noticed amongst the woods forwarded to the Paris Exhibition in 1855. *Faradaya* is a tall woody climber from Rockingham Bay, and *Avicinna officinalis*, which is found along the sea coast in all parts of Australia, is well known to the colonists by the name of "Mangrove." It is described as an "erect shrub," but in the neighbourhood of Sydney, it is a tree of some size, and is mentioned as such by Dr. F. Von Mueller. The wood is hard, and sometimes used for mallets. The next order for consideration is that of the *Labiatae*. This family is widely diffused over every part of the globe; but of the twenty genera found in Australia, the distinct tribe of *Prostantheraceae* (including five genera) is the only one endemic in this continent, the species of which are chiefly extratropical. The introduced plants of the order are *Origanum vulgare*, *Melissa officinalis*, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Nepeta Cataria*, *Marrubium vulgare*, *Stachys avensis*, *Molucella levis*, and *Leonitis leonurus*; whilst *Prunella vulgaris* is a truly Australian species, and identical with that common in Europe, Northern Asia, North America, and the tropical mountains of Asia and South America. *Labiatae* are generally produced in greater abundance in the temperate regions of the globe, and their maximum is probably between 40° and 50° N. latitude. Hence the species are not so numerous in Australia as many persons might suppose, and as we advance towards the tropics, the genera are but poorly represented. Those which Australia possesses, in common with other countries, are

seen in common with other parts, are *Ocimum*, *Moschoma*, *Orthosiphon*, *Plectranthus*, *Coleus*, *Hypsis*, *Dyphophyla*, *Menia*, *Lycopus*, *Salvia*, *Scutellaria*, *Anisomeles*, *Leucas*, *Teucrium*, and *Ajuga*. Of the tribe *Prostantherae*, the five genera peculiar to Australia are *Prostanthera*, *Hemimandra*, *Hemigenia*, *Microcorys*, and *Westringia*, the first having 38 species; the second, 3; the third, 22; the fourth, 15; and the fifth, 11. It may be noticed as a peculiarity in our Labientes, that whilst in most parts of the world the species are herbaceous, some of the *Prostantherae* are small trees, whilst the geographical distribution of that tribe is very remarkable, some of the genera being limited to Western Australia, though *Prostanthera* itself has only two species in that part. Of the order *Plantaginales*, we have only the genus *Plantago* with 8 species. *P. lanceolata* and *P. major* (the latter of which by the way is much more generally diffused through the settled districts than Mr. Bentham seems to be aware of) are introduced plants, and appear to be of more utility than any of the indigenous species, two of which are common weeds in the vicinity of Sydney, and apparently of little value as fodder for cattle. The next great division of the vegetable kingdom to be noticed is that of the *Monochlamydeae*, sub-class 3, which is characterised by a perianth really or apparently simple, the lobes or segments all calycine or herbaceous, or all petal-like or scarious, or entirely wanting. The first order is that of *Phytolaccaceae*, including five genera, viz.:—*Monococcus*, *Phytolacca*, *Didymotheca*, *Gyrostemon*, *Codonocarpus*, and *Tersonia*. *Phytolacca*, according to Mr. Bentham, is an American genus, and *P. octandra*, now so common in the neighbourhood of Sydney, is an introduced plant, sometimes approaching in character the cultivated species, *P. decandra*, but generally differing in the number of the stamens. Of the important order of the *Chenopodiaceae*, we have fifteen genera, eight of which are probably endemic. The species are, for the most part, insignificant in their appearance, and present few points of interest to the horticulturist, but as many of them supply the place of grasses, and other plants, they are of great value.

cattle, they are highly valuable in Australia, and, no doubt, in the eyes of the squatter and grazier, they are more desirable than some of the showy leguminous plants which sometimes prove so injurious to stock. It must be added, too, that the order includes plants of the spinach kind, which in dry seasons are by no means to be despised as culinary vegetables, whilst not a few possess qualities of a medicinal and anti-scorbutic kind. *Rhagodia hastata*, and *R. parabolica*, are our principal "salt-bushes," but the smaller species are very numerous, and, in all probability, many remain yet to be described. From a general review of the order, as now placed before us, it is manifest that great progress has been made since the days of Brown, both in the discovery of new species, and in ascertaining the limits of some previously known only in certain localities; but it cannot be affirmed, that, as yet, we are well acquainted with the geographical distribution of the species, or the amount of variation to which they are liable. *Chenopodium murale*, which is mentioned as an introduced plant in Queensland, Victoria, and Tasmania, is equally so in New South Wales; whilst *Salicornia australis* and *Suaeda maritima* are as common near Sydney and Parramatta as they are in the other places indicated. The order *Amarantaceae* is represented by 9 genera, *Decintha*, *Hemiclona*, *Amarantus*, *Trichinium*, *Ptilotus*, *Achyranthes*, *Nysaethes*, *Alternanthera*, and *Gomphrena*. The species are, for the most part, of a weedy character, although like some of the preceding order, they possess, in certain instances, nutritious properties. The two species of *Amarantus* spreading everywhere in cultivated ground and waste places are determined to *A. blitum* and *A. viridis*, which certainly seem of foreign origin. *Trichinium* is a genus limited to Australia, and it contains 47 species, few of which extend to New South Wales. *Ptilotus*, which Dr. F. von Mueller proposed to unite with it, has 10 species, none of which have yet been found in this colony. The remaining genera of the order are *Achyranthes*, with one species, *Nysaethes*, with 2, *Alternanthera* with 8, and *Gomphrena* with 14; but these plants, together with the 4 species of *Scleranthus* which represent the *Panonychiaceae*, are interesting only to the systematic botanist, who has scarcely yet determined whether *Gomphrena* should be regarded as a single genus, or four separate ones. The *Polygonaceae* or "Buck-wheats" have four genera in Australia, viz., *Eneri*, *Rumex*, *Polygonum*, and *Muhlenbeckia*. Of the genus *Rumex*, *R. crispus*, *R. conglomeratus*, and *R. acetosa*, are the introduced "Docks," which have become so troublesome to agriculturists and gardeners. In some places, the seeds appear to have been carried down by floods, and to have diffused themselves over the alluvial soil, destroying the natural grasses and herbaceous plants, and usurping the place of useful and nutritious fodder. *R. acetosa* is the pest of orange and other orchards, whilst, in the neighbourhood of Bathurst and Goulburn it has established itself firmly in the cultivated fields, to the infinite annoyance of the farmer. *Rumex* has 5 indigenous species, and *Polygonum* probably 12, for *P. aviculare* seems to be of Asiatic or European origin. This species is mentioned as spreading in Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia; but in all probability it made its appearance in New South Wales long before it visited those parts, for now it may be seen in many fields and gardens in the vicinity of our towns. *Muhlenbeckia* is nearly allied to *Polygonum*, but differs very much in habit, the species being generally of a climbing nature, and the flowers diaceous. Mr. Bentham reckons seven species, but it does not seem to be ascertained whether *M. gracillima* is really distinct from *M. adpressa*. To this genus belongs what is called the "Lignum scrub" of the interior, to which Sir T. Mitchell and other explorers have alluded. The order *Nyctagineae* includes *Boerhaavia* and *Pisonia*—the one 2 and the other with 3 species. *B. diffusa* (*B. mutabilis* of R. Brown) is a plant which has an extensive range, and in the neighbourhood of Mudgee it is esteemed a good fodder for cattle. The flowers are small, but the roots strike deeply, and are supposed to have medicinal properties. *Pisonia* has a singular structure, the wood being supposed to consist of numerous vascular bundles, which continue to be developed until they form at last an almost continuous mass. *P. Brunonianae* was named by Dr. F. von Mueller ("Frag." 1, p. 20) *P. Moorianae*, in honour of Mr. C. Moore, F.L.S., Director of our Botanic Garden; but, as it appears to have been previously known and described, Mr. Bentham has adopted the original name given to it by Endlicher ("Prod. Fl. Norf.", '43). The order *Mysticeae* is represented in Australia by a single species, *Mysticis hispida*. This is one of the Nutmegs, and it has been found only in the northern parts of Australia, the Islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria, &c. It is described as being a fine tree, of sixty or seventy feet high, with diaceous flowers and dotted leaves. Mr. Bentham remarks that the only Australian species may be endemic, but it is closely allied to an Indian one. Of the *Monimiaceae* we have 8 genera—*Doryphora*, *Atherosperma*, *Daphnandra*, *Mollinedia*, *Kibara*, *Hedycarya*, *Palmerid*, and *Piptocalyx*. The first two of these are the "Sassafras" trees of the colonists; and they are esteemed for the value of their timber, and the medicinal properties of their bark. *D. Sassafras* may be found within a few miles of Sydney, but *A. moschata* has not been noticed nearer than the Tumut, being more common in Victoria and Tasmania. *Daphnandra* and *Mollinedia* occur in the Northern parts of New South Wales and Queensland, but of the five species of *Kibara* (to which *Wilkesia clyptocalyx*, F. Muell. is referred), one has been found at the Fox Ground, near Lane Cove, and another on the Richmond River. To this genus, *Hedycarya* is closely allied. Our only species, now *H. angustifolia*, is elegantly figured in Dr. F. von Mueller's work on the Indigenous Plants of Victoria, under the name of *H. Pseudomorus*. It occurs at the Kurrajong, on the Mittagong Range, and in many other parts of New South Wales and Victoria. The genus *Palmeria* was established by Dr. Mueller, but there seems to be some difficulty in defining the species, as they are but imperfectly known. *P. scandens* is a tall woody climber from Rockingham Bay. *P. racemosa* is somewhat doubtful, and another supposed species, found in leaf only at the Fox Ground and on the Blue Mountains by Mr. Wools, has occasioned some perplexity. Whether it is really a *Palmeria* or not is yet uncertain, but judging from some female flowers of the same plant, forwarded to England by Mr. C. Stuart, Mr. Bentham is disposed to connect the species with *P. scandens*. *Piptocalyx* has only one species, *P. Moorei*, so named in honour of the discoverer, Mr. C. Moore, of the Botanic Garden. It is said to be a woody climber of 30 or 40 feet, and to be known only from the Hastings. The order of *Lauraceae* has 8 genera in Australia, but of these 7 are Asiatic, three of them exclusively so, the four others with a few American representatives, and two of them also African; the sixth genus has besides only two New Zealand species, but it is nearly allied to an Asiatic genus, and as far as known, still closer to a small West Indian one. *Cryptocarya* has 9 species, one of which may be found not far from Sydney (*C. glaucescens*). It used to be called "Sassafras" by the first colonists, and, in favourable situations, attained a height of 40 feet. Some of the species are valuable for their timber, and, although the flowers are inconspicuous, many of the trees are ornamental on account of their foliage. *Nesodaphne* has one species endemic in Australia, and *Endiandra* reckons 7. *E. Lieberi* is mentioned as occurring from Port Jackson to the Blue Mountains, but whether it has perished under the progress of cultivation, or whether it occurred only sparingly near Sydney, cannot now be ascertained. It is found, however, more abundantly in the northern parts of the colony. The genus *Cinnamomum* is represented by *C. Tamala*, which is reported to be a fine tree with almost white barks, and identical with the Indian tree of that name. The remaining species of the Laurel family are four of *Tetraenthala*, principally in Queensland and Northern Australia; two of *Litsea*, one from the north, and another found within thirty miles of Sydney; eleven of the Dodder-like *Cassytha* (which in appearance more closely resembles *Cuscuta* than any tree of the Laurel family), and two of *Hernandia*, one of which is endemic, whilst the other has a considerable range in the old world. The large and singular order of *Proteaceae* occupies the remainder of the present volume, and the species are arranged under twenty-nine genera. The chief seat of the order is in Australia and Southern Africa, and the seven tribes are all Australian. Of the first four, the two principal ones, *Proteo* and *Personozieae*, are also in South Africa, but represented by different genera, the 9 Australian ones being, as well as the 4 constituting the small tribe *Conospermeae* and *Franklandiae*, all endemic with the exception of a single New Zealand species of *Perosozia*, and a New Caledonian *Cenarrhenes*. In the arrangement of the order into tribes, genera, and sections, the views of Robert Brown have been adopted, but as since his days many new species have been discovered, some modification of his system was necessary. Brown knew only of 22 genera (in 1810), or rather 20, as *Simsia* is now referred to *Siringlia*, and *Anedonia* to *Gravillea*. Of the nine genera added to the order, five of them, viz., *Macadamia*, *Carnarvonia*, *Cardellia*, *Buckinghamia*, and *Darlingtonia*, have been recently established by the indefatigable F. von

not to be in the nature of a legal protection. The considerations of gain which should induce the creation of a right of property in inventions were, that inventions might be more largely and rapidly made; become sooner and more thoroughly perfected; be speedily made and fully disclosed; be more energetically and successfully brought into general use; and, finally, after the legal right in them had been duly determined, that they might become common property. It was argued that the proposal of Mr. Macie and others, that inventors were the creditors of the nation, and deserved national compensation, though it might appropriately form a complement to a patent law, could never be regarded as a substitute for a patent law. The practical evils of the present system were (1) the indiscriminate granting of patents; (2) the want of accuracy in describing the nature and limits of the rights secured by the patent; (3) the cost, vexation, and unsatisfactory character of the trials of patent causes. The remedies which he suggested were twofold: suggestions for the efficient working of the existing law, and the introduction of additional provisions both of constitution and administration.

Mr. R. A. Macie, M.P., said the real question was whether the granting of a patent right to inventors was conducive to the public interest. His conviction was that it was against the public interest, and the country suffered in consequence. The patent was nothing less than a grand system of internal land privatising. He advocated a general system of rewards, to be decided upon by a competent authority, in proportion to the value of the invention.

HOLY ISLANDS.

Mr. Heworth Dixon gave, in the Geographical Section, a communication regarding the Holy Islands, in the White Sea, which Mr. Dixon is the only Englishman who had explored. Mr. Dixon began by giving an account of the legend regarding the manner in which the islands came to be devoted, as they were, to the use of the Church, and said that when the group of islands were first discovered by civilised Russians they were found to be entirely without population. The islands, therefore, tempted some of those austere saints in the early Russian Church, who found that their chief function in life was to fly away from the fangs of their fellow-creatures. The islands were a sort of little northern Arctic paradise, but they wanted the charm which Eden lost when Eve left it—the charm of the continuity of life. Wherever a spectator looked around he saw the green grass and a beautiful fringe of forest everywhere growing, obeying the order of nature, but nowhere a trace of animal life. No female animal was allowed to be upon those islands. He (Mr. Dixon) believed he had seen some female doves utterly disobeying the ancient monkish rule; but so far as female creatures could be brought under the control of the monastic regulation, no female foot was allowed to profane their holy grounds. In the course of his paper Mr. Dixon stated that, during the Crimean war, a British fleet entered the White Sea, and had left a very bad impression of Britain in the islands by firing on the holy places. Sir Edward Belcher said that if a flag of truce had been shown it would have been respected by Admiral Ommanney. He thought there were five or six shells fired. The fact was that one or two unlucky shots came on board or passed the ships, and the Admiral felt that the British flag had been insulted, and, as Lord Palmerston said to him (Sir E. Belcher), the very first duty when the flag was insulted was to resent the insult.—(Applause and a few hisses.) It turned out that the monks had guns and shot and powder, and in those circumstances they were not placed under the ordinary laws of war. They would not have been so treated if they had not shown their teeth.

IRON-CLAD SHIPS OF WAR.

In the mechanical section, a paper was contributed by Mr. Michael Scott on ships of war of moderate dimensions, in which he made several suggestions as to the improvement of iron-clad ships. The chairman said the loss of the Captain was a subject which might be appropriately discussed in connection with this paper, but at the present stage he should deprecate the discussion of anything but abstract questions upon which inferences might be drawn upon scientific grounds. Mr. E. J. Reed said he was informed last week that the committee of that section were desirous to hear from him some observations upon the principles involved in the loss of the Captain. His own feelings would lead him to defer the explanation of that loss to some future time; but throughout the Press of this country there existed a manifest tendency to account for the Captain's loss by the accident of the moment, rather than by the condition of the vessel's construction. If any mistake was made upon that point, there could be but one consequence, namely, the sacrifice of other lives in the future, and the greatest possible disasters to our service. That was the only reason which could possibly induce him to make any observations whatever upon the subject; and it was only because he knew that men most highly placed had the greatest possible faith in the most dangerous vessel that could be designed, that he felt bound to express his conviction that the loss of the Captain had resulted from preventable causes; and he, for one, hoped no other such loss would ever happen in our navy. (Applause.) The existence of the Captain arose out of the refusal of the advocates generally of the turret system to accept a high side in combination with turrets in sea-going ships. There had been an open feud for ten years between naval architects and advocates of the turret system. In one case it had been maintained that high sides were necessary in sailing ships; and it had been maintained on the other side that because guns were placed in the turrets they were at liberty to associate that feature of construction with a low-sided ship, or in other words with a ship that had no sides at all after she had undergone a not very large amount of inclination. The pressure of the public Press, and the pressure of Parliament, were in some degree exerted in favour of the one view, and when the time came for designing a sea-going turret ship, the determination of the height of her sides became a most serious question. However, he was right in saying that every sea Lord of the Admiralty perfectly concurred with himself in the feeling that a side of twelve or fourteen feet to a large-sized frigate was essential to sea worthiness. That had often been supposed to be a prejudice, but it was not so. It was a conviction, and from that conviction they were prohibited, of course, by their duty, to depart; the consequence was that when the Monarch was designed, they gave her a height of side of fourteen feet. Unhappily the ship was not only not accepted by the proposers of the system, but there was a difference of opinion upon the point; and Captain Cole and his friends considered that the sides were unnecessarily high, and that a ship with lower sides would better answer the purpose. A ship was ordered with other responsibility than their own, and it was only fair that it should be known that the ship which had been lost was the only one in the iron-clad navy of this country which had been built expressly and intentionally that she might be uncontrollable and unfettered by the advisers of the Admiralty. After the Captain was ordered, however, efforts were made to force upon the Government a system of converting the line-of-battle ships into rigged monitors with no sides; and he (Mr. Reed) then saw that by unwisely yielding to irresponsible pressure, they would be sliding into a system of construction full of peril to our navy, and he therefore took upon himself the task of going down to the Institution of Naval Architects and reading a paper, in which he set forth the extreme perils of such vessels. It was due to the designers of the Captain, and those gentlemen who compose the Admiralty when she was ordered, to say that certain observations which he had made in that paper were not applied to the Captain herself. The Captain was intended to take a freeboard of eight feet six inches, and those investigations were confined to vessels of a much lower freeboard; and it would have been highly improper of him to select as an example of danger, a vessel which the Admiralty had resolved to build in spite of his wishes and views. Therefore he had confined his observations entirely to those other vessels. He had now ceased to be responsible for vessels of the navy of any character, but he had not ceased to feel that measure of responsibility which must belong to everyone who had been related to questions of this kind. Mr. Childers, who had undergone such a deplorable loss by the sinking of this vessel, was a great loss in ships of that kind; and more than once he (Mr. Reed) was in very severe collision with him because of the anxiety of the right hon. gentleman to induce him to build ships of the Captain class. He hoped that the true lesson from this loss would be learned, but he was afraid it would not be learned yet. Mr. Lowe, in his speech at Elgin, looked upon it as a sacrifice offered to some great improvement which would hereafter take place in science, and confer great benefit upon the country. Mr. Lowe spoke of Mr. Huskisson's death in his efforts to introduce railways. Railways had been introduced, but Mr. Huskisson's life was sacrificed with an object, and we had obtained the price of it; but the lives lost by the Captain had not been sacrificed to anything that would hereafter take its place in our navy; and any Minister

us in a belief which would involve us in future catastrophes hereafter. Again, Mr. Lowe said the catastrophe called to his mind the lines of Byron, in which he described the power of the sea over the proudest works of man. This, however, was no case in which the sea had asserted itself against the proud and best works of man. It was not the case of a fleet being wrecked in a severe storm; but it was the case of one vessel going down, and that in not an extraordinary gale. He maintained—and he wished to go forth to the world—that it would be simply impossible to build another Captain without the faults of the Captain, if it were built on the same principle, with low freeboard and a great spread of canvas. If they valued the rights of the people or the property of the country, the lesson they would learn from the loss of the Captain was that it did not matter whether they were ministers or admirals, captains or anything else, they must not indulge in idle dreams in reference to these scientific questions, but they must bring their proud heads down to the altar of science, and pay their proper homage there. (Applause.) Captain Janssen, of the Dutch navy, said the nation to which he belonged had been accustomed to navigate the seas in low freeboard ships for two hundred years, and he thought English sailors could navigate that class of ships as well as the Dutch. It was only because scientific men were not up to their (the seamen's) business that they heard such ideas as that brought forward by Mr. Reed.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF NEUTRALITY. THE GERMAN SIDE.

(To the *Editor of the Times*.)

SIR.—I have lived so long in Germany that I can remember the time when it was quite an advantage and a distinction in German society to be an Englishman,—when one always heard England spoken of either with affectionate admiration or envious respect. I need hardly say that this is no longer the case. At the present moment it is positively painful for one who loves his country to converse with Germans, and to hear the remarks which are continually made on the policy of our Cabinet, which they irreverently call the "white salve (*weisse salbe*) Ministry." Those who once envied us now regard us with contemptuous dislike, as having lost the spirit and the power which made us great and formidable; and those who admired and loved us regard with sorrow our pusillanimous abdication of the post in Europe which, they think, we once filled to the great advantage of the whole civilised world.

If, as Burns considered, it is a thing worth praying for "to see ourselves as others see us," it surely is worth while to know the light in which we are regarded by a nation which promises to be as great in arms as it has hitherto been in learning and science, and on whose enmity or friendship the position and the fate of other European nations will in a great measure depend.

"For our own sakes," say our German well-wishers, "we are well satisfied to have been left to deal single-handed with France, because no one will now presume to interfere with our conditions of peace. But for you the course taken by your Ministers is the most disastrous that could have been chosen. You acknowledge that France attacked us on a pretext which would not have been deemed sufficient in the darkest period of the Middle Ages. With unparalleled insolence she demanded that a candidate for the Spanish Crown should withdraw his pretensions because he was related to the Royal House of Prussia, and you actually used your influence (as usual against the supposed weaker party) to make him withdraw. Having thus induced the Prussian Government to submit to an affront, it was surely the part of a nation, with one spark of national pride or national spirit, to declare that if the peace of Europe were violated without any pretext at all, it would feel bound to take part (not by 'moral menace' alone, at which France would sneer) against the ruthless aggressor. Had England done this, there would most certainly have been no war at all, and she would have saved hundreds of thousands of Germans and Frenchmen from death or ruin, have earned the gratitude of a powerful and kindred nation, and saved Belgium from the fate which awaited her if the French had been victorious on the Rhine. If, on the other hand, which no one can seriously believe, the French Emperor had been insane enough to measure swords with Germany and England, you might have confined your operations to the sea, and by a most just war, carried on for the best interests of Europe, you would have curbed the aggressive insolence of France, and contracted a lasting alliance with Germany, which would have insured the peace and prosperity of the civilized world for untold ages.

The weak or timid always imagine that the safest course is to do nothing; it is often the most dangerous of all; it has proved so in the present case to you. What will your position be at the end of the present war? You have allowed the French to pursue unchecked a brigand policy. For all you would have done Germany might have been torn to pieces, and her people subjected to nameless atrocities. Have you thereby gained the gratitude of France? Why, an Englishman is hardly safe in the streets of Paris. Will you find an ally in Germany when Russia moves on Constantinople, or threatens you in India? Why, there is scarcely a wounded soldier in our hospitals who does not believe that England supplied the guns with which the Frenchmen shot him down. Your policy of non-intervention, as carried out by your "white salve Ministry," simply means that you will submit to any indignity yourselves, that you will look calmly at any wrong inflicted on your neighbours rather than risk responsibility, rather than shed your blood or spend your money. With what feelings will other nations regard your sufferings when you, like us, have to fight for your very existence against some mortal foe of your liberty and honour? What other ally could you have but Germany? Russia, perhaps, or America? Or is it on France that you rely? A curious combination between Quakerism and Chauvinism—between sheep and tigers. England has had a glorious past, and both we and all the civilized nations of the world have much to thank her for. Her withdrawal from the councils of Europe is a calamity to the world, as well as to herself. But we feel assured that a long continuance of such a policy would reduce her to the position of a third-rate Power; and we cannot but fear that the time is at hand when her neutrality will be pitifully guaranteed by other nations, together with that of Belgium and Holland.

Such is the language which I hear in all quarters from our friends; our enemies don't say much to me, but the more to one another. And I must confess that I find it difficult to answer them; for it seems to me that we have already good reason to cry, in reference to the present struggle, "All is lost, save money!"

Bonn, October.

W. C. P.

THE FRENCH SIDE.

(To the *Editor of the Times*.)

SIR.—The hostility that you manifest towards France astonishes and affects me all the more because your country owed to her, on the contrary, some acknowledgment for the good service which she rendered to you, with others, in the Crimean war.

You attached then much value to her alliance, and could not then sufficiently express your approbation of France and of her Government. Now that France is unfortunate you abandon her, and it is on her conqueror that you lavish your compliments and adulation. The French will never forget the ingratitude and the selfishness of England. They were in the East your only allies, but when the hour of danger shall come upon you, when Russia, with the connivance of Prussia and the United States, shall menace Turkey and your Indian empire, France, to whom you would not hold out a helping hand, will model her conduct after yours; she will allow the Czar to do as he pleases, as you have allowed Bismarck—and she will do as she ought. Let everyone be rewarded according to his works.

For myself, as a Belgian, I conjure my countrymen to place no confidence whatever in the promises of your Ministers.

They allowed Denmark to be crushed—to-morrow they will allow France to be dismembered, and when Prussia shall be willing to extend her maritime frontiers, and to annex Holland and Belgium, they will take care not to breathe a word against it, for they love peace too much to enter into any war, not even a just and a necessary one. This abdication of your true position has already produced for you some bitter fruits; in Europe you have no longer either prestige or influence, and when, sooner or later (perhaps very soon), you shall have lost India, you will regret your negligence, and may then possibly think it high time to call upon your foolish Government to render some account of its acts. Unhappily, it will then be too late to save France and England.

In meantime you allow that country to be impoverished, and when it is ruined you will be obliged to seek elsewhere for an outlet for your commerce and for your manufactures.

I quite admit that the correspondents of the *Times*, who are always in the midst of the head-quarters of the Prussians, see nothing of the horrors of this war. The *Times*—

At Carignan, where the Prussians met with no resistance, they plundered almost everything in Madame P. N.'s house, seizing upon wine valued at 15,000 francs. In the residence of Madame Z. R., they cut up that lady's silk dresses, and her window curtains, and tried to set fire to her furniture. Their officers encouraged them in all this.

At Bazeilles, where the citizens defended their hearths and their homes, Monsieur H. was found slaughtered with his servant; both strangled, riddled with bullets, and ripped open (*le ventre ouvert*); and what is yet more horrible in this, that it was the wife and children of this unfortunate gentleman who found him in this state under the ruins of his house.

At Bazeilles the Bavarians committed acts of infamy and of atrocity which are not to be described; they sacked, they pillaged, they burnt, and they violated young girls whose throats they cut after they had dismembered them.

We shall hold ourselves ready to give Monsieur Frankh, the Minister of War at Munich, full proof of these our assertions, if called upon to do so.

I have lived in Prussia, and have travelled for a long time in Germany, for the people of which I have always cherished sentiments of esteem and respect. I could not really have believed that such a people, and the Bavarians above all others, with their frank and gallant bearing, could have been capable of such atrocious acts.

And so, sir, although I am protected by my nationality as a Belgian, and speak the language of the invaders, I have hastened to transport my wife and my children into Belgium for their needful security. Yes, the Prussians do sometimes behave themselves well when there is given up to them all that they demand, but, when that is not the case, they plunder and are guilty of terrible excesses; and in proof of that I refer you to the case of the Mayor of St. Cyr, who, within the last day or two, was shot because he could not readily obtain for them all that they asked for.

To show you, sir, the confidence that is felt in their discipline, even in the scenes of their first exploits, permit me here to quote to you some lines from a letter which I have just received from Belgium. "It having been reported that the Prussians are about to lay siege to Mézières, the people of the country around have again taken to flight, with their flocks and every thing that they possess. Numbers have passed this way over the border; Hendremont is full of conveyances. Here we have had a repetition of the melancholy cortèges which appeared on the 1st of September."

It is not then astonishing that Normandy, La Vendée, Bretagne, and the South, animated by rage and by patriotism, are rising *en masse* to repel this dreadful invasion!

As the persons above mentioned still remain in places occupied by the Prussians, and as I am myself exposed to have them quartered upon me, be good enough, as a matter of precaution, to refrain from publishing more than our initials, and to keep our full names to yourself, so that you may hereafter publish them, when we shall no longer have to dread the vengeance of the enemy.

Earnestly appealing to your impartiality to publish this letter (which I wish I could have made somewhat shorter), I thank you by anticipation, and request you to be pleased to accept the assurance of my respectful consideration.

(Signed) F. B.

Elbeuf, 2nd October, 1870.

THE TREATY OF GENEVA.

(From the *Pall-Mall Gazette*.)

THIS is the first war in which the Treaty of Geneva for the neutralisation of the wounded has been fully in operation. During the Austro-Prussian campaign the Austrians, who had previously refused to sign the convention, applied to be received as signatories, and were willingly admitted. But they had none of the organisation of voluntary aid which it encourages, and the advantages of its clauses neutralising the wounded, their ambulances, medical officers, and hospital material, were not developed until after the close of the brief campaign. During the present war the provisions of the convention have been severely tried, and their beneficent character is fully proved. Permission has been freely accorded to neutrals to give aid and attendance to the wounded on both sides. Protection has been afforded to civil volunteers who devote themselves to mitigating the horrors which follow in the wake of victory as of defeat. Our own authorities, who were last among European Powers to approve the formation of an Aid Society, are now looking on, it may be assumed with approval, at the rapid and enthusiastic development which is being given by private energy and benevolence to the efforts of Colonel Loyd Lindsay and his coadjutors to carry to the writhing masses of suffering humanity, victims of this terrible war, such comfort, help, and relief as may become the wealth, the generosity, and the tenderness of the British people. So far, then, the Convention of Geneva has become a new landmark of progress, and has conferred benefits even greater than could have been anticipated. It is not surprising that it has given rise also to some complications and complaints. On the French side it is a matter of complaint that in the rout of MacMahon's army at Woerth over 100 members of the hospital corps were cut off, including, it is stated, what is known as the French Press Ambulance Corps, supplied by a subscription. They have all been sent back by way of Belgium, but their capture is a grievance. On the other hand, there is a complaint that the French have fired upon the ambulances, and on both sides it is certain that medical officers have been captured and have been shot on the field, by mistake. Some part of this is accidental, and possibly unavoidable. Another part, however, is due to the adoption for medical officers of a dress not distinguishable, except in trifling details, from that of combatant officers. The propriety of adopting a specific and easily distinguishable dress for medical officers of the army and navy was seriously mooted here a year or two since. But these officers preferred the trappings of war, and did not wish to be less gay and martial in their dress than their comrades in arms. The convention by which medical officers of all armies are now neutralised makes it very desirable that all alike should wear a uniform easily to be distinguished, and in some apparent details identical. As to firing on ambulances, here, too, we may observe that a distinctive colour for ambulances should also be agreed upon. It may, however, be proper to recall the condition that ambulances are not absolutely inviolable, but only on condition of their being placed in positions not strategically important. But for this condition combatants might readily avail themselves of the neutral character of ambulances to occupy important strategic points without being subject to the enemy's fire. We are disposed to attribute the refusal of the French Government to allow Belgium to give passage to trains containing the wounded to an imperfect acceptance of the principles of the treaty. But for this convention the whole of the medical staff and hospital material captured at Woerth would have been prisoners and prizes of war. But for that convention the wounded could not be safely left in charge of medical officers, and with stores of provisions in undefended positions while the army marches on. To insist upon barring neutral ground for the passage of those who are expressly neutralised by the convention does not seem very logical or just; to argue that by thus straining the terms of agreement the hostile army is encumbered with a mass of wounded who must interfere with their movements and communications is to suggest to the enemy the cruel retort that a large part of the wounded are French, that by the terms of the treaty they are authorised to return them upon the hands of the army to which they belong, and that they will no longer be responsible for their care. Eight thousand Frenchmen are now being treated in German hospitals. It seems to us entirely within the spirit and meaning of the provisions of the Geneva treaty that the Belgian Government should be authorised, as was proposed by the Prussian authorities, to permit the wounded to pass across its territory. The convention which declared them, and all that is appropriated to their service, to be neutral, seems expressly to contemplate such a course. It is a difference of three days and three hours—a difference of long agony to some thousands of men; of life and death to a large proportion of them.

AUCTION SALES.

HOSES, heavy and light
Vehicles, Harness, and Saddlery.
GEORGE KISS will sell by auction, at the
Bazaar, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock.
As above
Regular Sales at the Bazaar, daily; and at Camp-
down, any afternoon.
Horses and Vehicles on hire.
Saddle and Harness Horse.

GEORGE KISS has received instructions
from Mr. Moss, Shounhaven, to sell by
auction, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock.
Chair-gilding, 6, a fine gild.

Fresh Horses.

GEORGE KISS is instructed by Messrs.
Sullivan and Tindale to sell by auction, at
the Bazaar, TO-MORROW, Friday, at 11 o'clock.
200 useful horses, broken to saddle and harness, and
capital journey horses.

Heavy Cart Horses.

GEORGE KISS is instructed to sell by
auction, at the Bazaar, THIS DAY, at 11
o'clock.
Very young horses, very quiet, and subdue to
any draft trial. They have just arrived from Picton,
and are excellent workers.

DAWSON and CO. have received instructions
to sell by auction, THIS DAY,
at 2 p.m., at their Pitt-street Yards,
superior fat cows.

Fat Lamb, Fat Calves.

DAWSON and CO. will sell by auction,
at their Yards, Pitt-street, at 2 p.m. THIS
DAY.
50 fat lambs, from G. T. Loder, Esq.
Calves, from I. K. Cleve, Esq.

Omnibus and 3 Horses for Sale.

DAWSON and CO. have received instructions
to sell by auction, on FRIDAY next,
at their Pitt-street Yards, at 11 o'clock.
An excellent stock of horses, and 12 outside
horses to run between Globe and Queen's Wharf.
With the will be sold the horses, which are in
good condition, and first-class collar horses. Also
the harness and tackling complete.

Fat Merino Rams, from Tasmania.

DAWSON and CO. have the pleasure to
announce that they have received instructions
from H. W. Blomfield, Esq., to sell by auction, WED-
NESDAY, the 4th of January, 1871, at the Quarantine
Ground, near Moore Park.

50 very good merino lambs, especially selected from the
same, and the late R. Q. Ker-
man, Esq., and H. W. Blomfield, Esq.

Is directing the attention of sheep-breeders to the above,
the auctioners would point out that these rams are from
the same, and are lately sold at the Quarantine
Ground, which would be a mark for the buyers.

That this opportunity of purchasing such stock as
"Ker-billy's" and other noted rams will not be
neglected.The above can now be inspected at the Quarantine
Ground, and the auctioneers will be happy to give addi-
tional particulars upon application being made to them.

Fat Wethers. Fat Wethers.

DAWSON and CO. have received instructions
from P. G. King, Esq., to sell by auction,
at 11 o'clock.

Fat wethers, from the Peel River Com-
pany's station. They have been very
well-fenced, and will arrive partially
in Wallerawang. The wool from the above sheep
last year brought from 11 to 23s.

The first draft of about 900 are expected to arrive
today, and will be sold at 9.30.

BUGGIES AND HARNESS, &c., THIS DAY.

H. S. GIBSON will sell by auction, at
his Repository, 282 Pitt-street, at 11
a.m., and second-hand buggies, 25 shillings, social,
2½ carts, van and spring carts: also, a lot new
and second-hand harness, saddle and bridles, &c.,
a pair first-class bay carriage horses, 15 hands.

HARRISON, JONES, and DEVLIN have
been instructed by Messrs. Christian and Co.
to sell by auction, at their Yards, THIS DAY,
10th December, at 11 o'clock, at their
300 prime fat wethers, 8s batch, from their celebrated
Woolbush station.

G. M. PITTS has received instructions from
Mr. Skuthorpe, Esq., to sell by auction,
THIS DAY, the 15th instant, at his Yards, at
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